

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **May 23, 2006, Work Session**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 3

CONSENT: **X**

REGULAR:

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: **Region 2000 All Hazards Mitigation Plan/Flood Mitigation Assistance Plan**

RECOMMENDATION: Pass a Council Resolution adopting the Region 2000 All Hazards Mitigation Plan/Flood Mitigation Assistance Plan

SUMMARY: The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires that local governments develop and adopt natural hazard mitigation plans in order to receive certain Federal disaster mitigation assistance. Through the efforts of the Region 2000 Steering Committee and the 10 localities within Region 2000, and with the assistance of Virginia Tech's Center for Geospatial Technology, a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan/Flood Mitigation Plan has been developed for the region. The Regional plan has been tentatively approved by the Commonwealth of Virginia and by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Council must now adopt the regional plan before final approval of the plan by the Commonwealth and by FEMA is given and the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 are satisfied.

PRIOR ACTION(S): None

FISCAL IMPACT: Adoption of the regional plan ensures that the City of Lynchburg will continue to be eligible to receive Federal disaster mitigation assistance.

CONTACT(S): R. Les Puckett, Emergency Coordinator, 455-6347

ATTACHMENT(S): Council Resolution, Executive Summary

The Region 2000 All Hazards Mitigation Plan/Flood Mitigation Assistance Plan can be viewed in the office of the Emergency Coordinator, 800 Madison Street, Lynchburg, VA. Call 434-455-6347 for an appointment.

REVIEWED BY: lkp

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, as amended, requires that local governments develop and adopt natural hazard mitigation plans in order to receive certain federal assistance, and

WHEREAS, the Region 2000 Steering Committee representing the City of Lynchburg, as well as the remaining ten localities of the Region 2000 Regional Commission was convened in order to study the region's risks from and vulnerability to natural hazards, and to make recommendations on mitigating the effects of such hazards on the region; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee was provided staff support by the Region 2000 Regional Commission; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the Steering Committee, the staff of the Region 2000 Regional Commission, Virginia tech's Center for Geospatial Technology as well as members of the public, private and nonprofit sectors, have resulted in the development of a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan/Flood Mitigation Plan for the region.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Region 2000 All Hazards Mitigation Plan/Flood Mitigation Plan dated March 2006 is hereby approved and adopted for the City of Lynchburg.

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

038L



Executive Summary

The vision for the Virginia's Region 2000 Partnership Local Government Council's Hazard Mitigation Plan is to lessen the impacts from natural and manmade hazards, prepare the region to respond to future events, and encourage regional collaboration by pursuing funding and promoting mitigation actions focusing on structural projects, education, information and data development, and policy and planning.

The Region 2000 Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed in 2004 and 2005 to satisfy local planning requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K). The DMA2K legislation (Public Law 106-390) brought increased emphasis on pre-disaster planning and funding to reinforce the importance of mitigation planning and emphasizes planning for disasters before they occur. As such, DMA2K established a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program and new requirements for the national Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). States and local governments are now required to adopt FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans in order to qualify for pre and post disaster federal hazard mitigation funding, such as HMGP.

For Region 2000, HMGP planning funding from Hurricane Isabel provided funds to develop a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan for the participating communities of Amherst County (including Town of Amherst), Appomattox County (including the Towns of Appomattox and Pamplin City), Bedford City, Bedford County, Campbell County (including Towns of Altavista and Brookneal), and Lynchburg City. The Region 2000 Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan followed the FEMA guidelines and publications with separate sections devoted to the following:

- I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
- II. INTRODUCTION
- III. COMMUNITY PROFILE
- IV. PLANNING PROCESS
- V. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT (HIRA)
- VI. MITIGATION
- VII. IMPLEMENTATION AND PLAN MAINTENANCE
- VIII. REFERENCES
- IX. APPENDICES



Sections I through III provide background information on the mitigation plan and communities in Region 2000 Regional Commission. Section IV on the planning process highlights how Region 2000 contracted with the Virginia Tech Center for Geospatial Information Technology (CGIT) and the various meetings that were held through the plan development and adoption process. Section V gives a detailed account of the various hazards (primarily natural) that impact Region 2000. The table below summarizes the severity of these hazards by listing priority rank (developed by the regional steering committee) and the impact of the hazard (location in Region 2000 with highest vulnerability and overall \$ loss when estimated).

Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Results		
Hazard Type	Rank	High Vulnerability Areas and \$ Loss
Winter Storms (Ice/Snow)	High	Snow: Western Bedford and Amherst Counties; Ice: Region wide
Flood (Hurricane)	High	Bedford County (Smith Mountain Lake), Lynchburg (James River), Town of Altavista (flood and stormwater drainage); <i>Total Annualized Regional Loss: \$2,194,531</i>
Drought	High	Area served by wells only region wide, especially Bedford and Campbell Counties
Wind (Hurricane/Tornado)	Medium	Hurricane Wind: Densely populated areas of Bedford and Lynchburg Cities and Lynchburg suburbs in Bedford and Campbell Counties; <i>Total Annualized Regional Loss: \$1,421,500</i> Tornado: US 460 Corridor in Bedford County, Bedford City, and Campbell County
Wildfire	Medium	Heavily forested areas in southern Amherst County, northern Campbell County, western Bedford County, and pockets throughout Appomattox County
Landslide and Land Subsidence	Low	Steep slope road cuts region wide, slightly higher vulnerability in Campbell and Appomattox Counties
Terrorism	Low	Specific locations throughout region as denoted by local emergency operations plans
Earthquake	None	Relatively low vulnerability region wide

Section VI presents the different mitigations actions developed by each community to address these hazards. As listed in the Plan's vision, the actions focused on structural projects, education, information and data development, and policy and planning. Communities also developed regional and jurisdictional actions, which bridged action categories and involved inter-community coordination. The table below summarizes the mitigation actions for the Region:

Mitigation Action Summary		
Mitigation Action Type	Highest Ranked Action(s)	Comments
Education and Outreach	1. Weather Related Hazards Education	Almost all communities included a weather related hazards education action, with 6 communities also having a specific drought education action.
	2. Drought Mitigation Education	
Information and Data	1. Floodplain Map Updates	Most communities included a mitigation action



Mitigation Action Summary		
Mitigation Action Type	Highest Ranked Action(s)	Comments
Development		concerning the need for new information to aid efforts to update floodplain maps for the region.
Policy and Planning	1. Integrating Human Caused Hazards into EOPs	Almost all communities included the mitigation action of integrating human caused hazards into community emergency operations plans (EOPs).
Structural Mitigation	1. Maintaining Critical Facilities during Power Disruptions 2. Monitoring and Maintain areas near Right of Ways 3. Evaluate and establish adequate drainage systems	Power outages from primarily winter storms were seen as one of the most prevalent hazard related problems for the region. Structural actions for maintaining critical facility power and maintaining right of ways were ranked high by most communities. A number of communities also expressed the need to evaluate and establish better drainage systems to address stormwater issues.
Regional	1. Expand Regional Water Supply	All communities in the region ranked high having better regional water supply and distribution systems.
Jurisdictional	Varied	Additional mitigation actions added by communities included specific water system improvements, developing or expanding GIS systems, and establishing regional or Local Emergency Planning Commissions (LEPCs).

Section VII details the process each community plans to take to implement their mitigation actions listed in the Plan. In some cases, the mitigation actions listed are already underway in some form in the communities and will be integrated into existing plans and operations. This section also provides information about how each community adopted this Plan.

The Region 2000 Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan provides the region with a valuable tool to expand hazard mitigation and prepare communities to better address the impacts of hazards.